

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows (the changes in these claims are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

Claims 1-4 Cancelled.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified factor VIII polypeptide comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to ~~a~~the polynucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide characterized by high-level expression when compared to a corresponding human factor VIII polypeptide expressed under the same conditions.

6. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18; and,

b) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to that set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

7. (Original) A DNA construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5.

8. (Original) A DNA construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 6.

9. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5.

10. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 6.

11. (Original) A cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5.

12. (Original) A cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 6.
13. (Original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 5.
14. (Original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 6.
15. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a modified factor VIII polypeptide comprising:
  - a) introducing into a cell a nucleic acid molecule comprising athe nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ NO: 18, wherein said sequence encodes said polypeptide and said polypeptide is characterized by high-level expression when compared to a corresponding human factor VIII polypeptide expressed under the same conditions; and
  - b) culturing said cell under conditions that allow expression of said nucleotide sequence.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18; and,
  - b) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to that set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising isolating said polypeptide.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising isolating said polypeptide.

Claims 19-43 (Cancelled).